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THE LAW OF TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE COMPANIES, INCLUDING ELECTRIC LAW. Second Edition, by S. Walter Jones, Dean of the University of Memphis Law School. Kansas City. Vernor Law Book Co. 1916; pp. xxiv, 1065.

The first edition of this work appeared in 1906. That it has survived for a decade and has been used by lawyers and cited by the courts sufficiently to justify a second edition is in itself a favorable criticism of the author's efforts to gather into one volume the legal rules and principles likely to arise in connection with the use of the telegraph and telephone. In the second edition the author has included "Electric Law," whatever that may be. It seems to be, as used in this work, the law applied to the use of electricity for power and light in so far as it is similar to or identical with the law of the telegraph and telephone. As power and light companies, like telegraph companies, use poles and wires, and serve the public directly, or else furnish current to electric railways that serve the public, it is manifest there will be many common topics. This is especially true in such subjects as Liabilities for Injuries, in Chapter IX, and Duty to Furnish Equal Facilities, in Chapter XI. An examination of the latter chapter, however, shows how little value the book has outside the field of the telegraph and telephone. The duties of other electric companies are so inadequately treated that they might as well have been omitted.

The author and the publishers deserve special commendation for avoiding that rock on which most new editions of law books have been falling with the calamitous result that each volume is broken into two or three. The second edition is kept within substantially the same compass as the first, typographical condensations largely offsetting the added matter of text and notes.

If it was not suggested by the subject of the book, it would become apparent on a glance at the table of contents that this, like many another legal volume found convenient by the profession, is not a treatise on any branch of the law, such for example, as contracts, pleading, agency, or evidence. It does not even on a logical plan develop the law of related subjects, like a work on public service law or insurance law. Instead it is a handy collection of chapters from various branches of the law, in which are involved problems a lawyer must deal with in actions by and against telegraph and telephone companies. Such a lawyer, whatever the nature of his case, or the relation of his client to his adversary, whether the case arises out of a message or the location of a wire or pole, will naturally look in such a book as this for aid, and he is pretty sure to find something, and to find it well and clearly stated and well supported by authorities.

E. C. GODDARD.

AMERICAN CIVIL LAW CHURCH LAW, by Carl Zollman, LL. B. New York, Columbia University, Longmans, Green & Co. Agents 1917, pp. 473.

Here at last is a book covering a field hitherto neglected. Most books merely add another to an already long list in the same field. Not only is there no book on American ecclesiastical law as it has grown to the present, but

there never has been an adequate treatment of the subject. Because of the separation of church and state in this country we have no ecclesiastical courts and ecclesiastical law in the sense in which they exist in England, and it seems to have been quite generally assumed by writers that there is no American ecclesiastical law. But this is far from the fact. Various church bodies are in a sense courts, and pass on ecclesiastical questions with final authority. But there are many ecclesiastical questions affecting civil rights, and these have given rise to a great number of cases in our civil courts. As is shown in the title, it is of the law governing these latter questions that the present work treats. And the treatment is adequate and satisfactory, a real contribution. Of only a few books can as much be said with assurance.

After a consideration of religious liberty under our Federal and State Constitutions and laws, the author discusses church corporations and constitutions. One of the most interesting subjects is treated under implied trusts, scisms and church decisions. The power of dead and buried donors of money to church property and uses to lay their dead hands on the present day users of such property and for all time limit its use to the propagation of ideas and beliefs that may long since have become practically obsolete is serious enough in case of express trusts in which the intent of the donor has been clearly expressed. It might be still more so if the courts really carried out the doctrine of implied trusts by restricting the use of church funds and property in ways which are often quite contrary to any proved or probable intent of the donors. As a rule they do not. As the author points out in Chapters VI and VIII courts usually find a way to avoid results of the doctrine of implied trusts that are absurd. To paraphrase, if they did not it would be to command religion to halt in its progress, and to stretch the church upon a veritable bed of Procrustes. We cannot but regret that the author felt it was necessary to omit the discussion of charitable trusts as affecting various denominations, and express the hope that he will carry out his intention to cover that very interesting field in a separate volume.

E. C. GODDARD.

IMPORTANT FEDERAL LAWS. Compiled by John A. Lapp, LL. D., Director of Indiana Bureau of Legislative Information; Member of Executive Committee of the National Drafting Conference. B. F. Bowen & Co. Indianapolis. 1917; pp. xv. 933.

This is an addition to the handy reference library which is always growing by the addition of compilations many of which are obsolete, or so out of date as to be untrustworthy, almost as soon as issued. The compiler of this single volume collection of Acts of Congress which seems to him of general interest calls attention to the significant fact that of the important acts in the volume more than two thirds have been enacted or completely revised since 1910, and more than one-half since June 1916. It was plain that by June, 1917 so many more changes would be enacted that the volume would be out of date when it left the press in 1917. Such was the fact, and the publishers met the situation by issuing almost simultaneously with the book